DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305) FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

5 8 6 4 99 SEP 27 A10 :09

Re: Docket numbers: 98N-1230 96P-0418 97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

Each year the United States Egg industry force molts (intentionally stanes for up to 14 days) millions of hens to manipulate egg production. Forced molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella infection. The US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) stated: "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices."

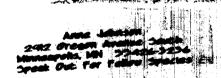
The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health. Therefore, the FDA should ban the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the **starving** hens' immune system. Forced molting of laying hens is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. The FDA was petitioned in **April 1998** to ban **forced** molting. This petition should be granted without further delay. Putting Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating refrigeration temperatures is not enough to ensure human safety.

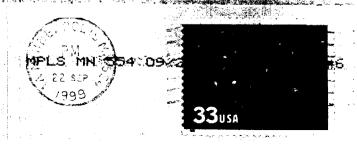
Sincerely.

Jane Anne Remes Johnson 2912 Oregon Me. S. St. Louis Park, MN 55426 zajic@aol.com

97P-0197

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C719

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C720

96P-0418/C719